

**The original documents are located in Box 17, “9/26/75 - Talking Points: Career Criminal Planning Conference” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THANK YOU, MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL

HAROLD TYLER

ADMINISTRATOR VELDE

MR. WORK

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TALKING POINTS:

CAREER CRIMINAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 26, 1975

- 1 -

I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO BE HERE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR  
WORK ON A PROGRAM THAT HAS MY STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST  
AND SUPPORT.

LAST SEPTEMBER, I DIRECTED THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO DEAL WITH CAREER CRIMINALS.

ITS GOALS ARE QUICK IDENTIFICATION OF THOSE WHO REPEATEDLY  
COMMIT SERIOUS OFFENSES; PRIORITY PROSECUTION OF THEIR CASES;  
AND ASSURANCE OF APPROPRIATE SENTENCES UPON CONVICTION SO  
THEY COULD NOT RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO VICTIMIZE THE  
COMMUNITY.

THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN FUNDED WITH LEAA GRANTS IN  
ELEVEN CITIES. IT WILL BE OPERATIONAL IN ALL OF THEM SOON.  
ALTHOUGH EXPERIMENTAL IN NATURE, WE HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS  
FOR ITS SUCCESS.

YOU KNOW, BETTER THAN MOST, THE TOLL CRIME EXACTS  
FROM OUR CITIZENS -- A TOLL MEASURED IN BLOOD, TREASURE AND  
PEACE OF MIND. AND CRIME IS ON THE RISE. SINCE 1960,  
REPORTED CRIME HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED, AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE.

LAST YEAR SAW THE ANNUAL CRIME RATE INCREASE BY 17 PERCENT,  
THE LARGEST YEARLY INCREASE SINCE THE FBI BEGAN COLLECTING  
STATISTICS 44 YEARS AGO.

THIS CRIME EPIDEMIC THREATENS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR  
SOCIETY -- FOR IT IS LAW WHICH MAKES HUMAN SOCIETY POSSIBLE.

EACH OF US HAS TAKEN AN OATH TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE  
CONSTITUTION, WHICH CHARGES US WITH THE DUTY OF "ENSURING  
DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY." BUT THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOMESTIC  
TRANQUILITY WHEN INCREASING NUMBERS OF CITIZENS ARE ROBBED,  
MUGGED, RAPED AND MURDERED.

EACH OF YOU HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT THIS. AS YOU KNOW, A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF SERIOUS  
CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF OFFENDERS.  
THE CAREER CRIMINAL PROGRAM AIMS DIRECTLY AT SOLVING THIS  
PROBLEM.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR GREATER  
FOCUS ON CAREER CRIMINALS BY OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

YOURS IS A GRASSROOTS EFFORT. THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE  
ADMINISTRATION, HAS AWARDED OVER \$5 MILLION DOLLARS IN  
GRANTS, TOGETHER WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EVALUATION.

BUT THE DAY-TO-DAY PLANNING, THE CONDUCT AND DECISIONS ARE  
YOURS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE. WITH FEW  
EXCEPTIONS, THE PROSECUTION OF SERIOUS CRIMES IS SOLELY WITHIN  
THE JURISDICTION OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

YOU ALL HAVE HAD A LONG AND -- I HOPE -- PRODUCTIVE  
DAY. EVEN THOUGH DISRAELI ONCE SAID IT IS "WITH WORDS  
WE GOVERN MEN," I MIGHT ADD MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT IS IS  
"WITH WORDS WE ALSO WEAR MEN DOWN."



SO LET ME END BY THANKING YOU FOR COMING HERE, FOR WORKING

SO HARD ON A PROGRAM SO BRIGHT WITH PROMISE.

MAY GOD SPEED YOU IN YOUR WORK.

END OF TEXT